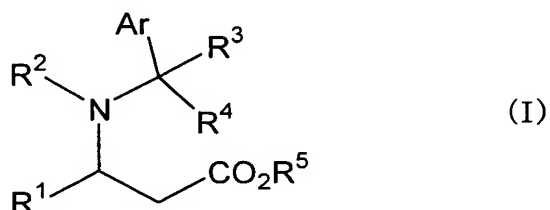
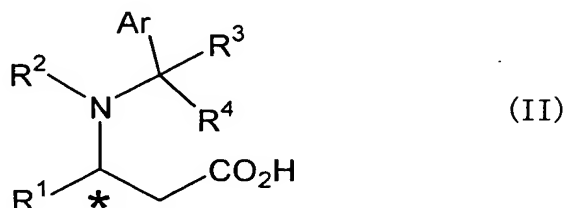


Abstract

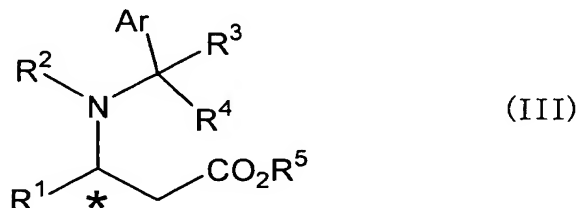
The present invention discloses a process which comprises selectively hydrolyzing one enantiomer of racemic mixtures of an N-substituted β -amino acid alkyl ester or N-substituted 2-homopipecolic acid ester represented by the formula (I):



wherein Ar, R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are the same as defined in the specification, in the presence of a hydrolase to form an optically active ((R) or (S))-N-substituted β -amino acid or optically active ((R) or (S))-N-substituted 2-homopipecolic acid represented by the formula (II):



and simultaneously to obtain an unreacted optically active ((S) or (R))-N-substituted β -amino acid alkyl ester or unreacted optically active ((S) or (R))-N-substituted 2-homopipecolic acid ester represented by the formula (III):



which has a reverse steric absolute configuration to that of the compound represented by the formula (II).